

# House Joint Memorial 5

Sponsored by Representative BARNHART; Representatives DEMBROW, GOMBERG (Pre-session filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to pass and refer to states constitutional amendment relating to free speech rights of individuals and corporations.

## JOINT MEMORIAL

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations; and

Whereas for the past three decades, a divided United States Supreme Court has transformed the First Amendment into a powerful tool for corporations seeking to evade and invalidate democratically-enacted reforms; and

Whereas this corporate takeover of the First Amendment has reached its extreme conclusion in the United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC*; and

Whereas the United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC* overturned long-standing precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in our elections; and

Whereas the United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC* will now unleash a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history; and

Whereas the United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC* presents a serious and direct threat to our democracy; and

Whereas the people of the United States have previously used the constitutional amendment process to correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy and self-government; now, therefore,

### **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

(1) That we, the members of the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to pass and send to the several states for ratification a constitutional amendment to restore the First Amendment and fair elections to the people.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.